

Human Relations News

from the

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

March 1957

New Jersey State CIO Calls For Housing Legislation

Mr. Arthur Chapin, State CIO Human Relations Director, appeared before the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations at its regular February meeting and urged that the Commission memorialize the Newark City Council to petition the State Senate for passage of Assembly Bill No. 8 which prohibits discrimination in obtaining the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges in any publicly assisted housing accommodation. The Commission moved to carry out this suggestion and to go on record in support of Assembly Bill A-8.

Shelter is one of the basic requirements of people. The cost of housing affects their living standards. The quality of it affects the health, the safety, the security and the well-being of the family. For these reasons, the New Jersey State CIO has made housing one of the principal areas of its concern. Arthur Chapin said "We are deter-

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Annual Report Issued

This month our Commission released its 1956 annual report giving a brief summary of the major education and action programs conducted by the Commission during the past year. All organizations and individuals interested in receiving copies of this report should address communications to Daniel S. Anthony, Room 214-City Hall, Newark, New Jersey.

Mayor Leo P. Carlin Honors David M. Litwin, C. Willard Heckel

Commission Dedicates Brotherhood Program To Community Organizations

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations paid tribute to its former chairman, David M. Litwin and C. Willard Heckel at a special Brotherhood Month meeting on February 27th. The many local agencies and organizations which have consistently cooperated with the Commission to improve intergroup relations in this city were also cited in recognition of their work.

Although the citations were issued by Mayor Carlin, the presentation was made by Fire Department Director James T. Owens in the Mayor's absence. Litwin and Heckel responded with short acceptance speeches to the 200 citizens attending the meeting. After the awards were made, Rev. James H. Robinson, Church of the Master, New York City, gave an address in which he asked all people of good will to continue the fight for equal opportunity in all walks of life by maintaining hope and optimism.

The Commission's presentation to these community leaders read:

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David M. Litwin, left, and C. Willard Heckel, right, receive congratulations from Rev. James H. Robinson, featured speaker at Commission Meeting.

Community Councils Plan Trip To Philadelphia

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council and representatives of the Associated Community Council have planned a bus trip to Philadelphia to observe the work being done there under the Urban Renewal program. Some eighty-two persons have signed to make this trip on Saturday, March 23rd. Over half of those participating are from the Clinton Hill area, thirty representatives of the various community councils throughout Newark and several guests, including Mr. Robert C. Hoover, City Planning Officer; Miss Agnes Coleman, Chairman, Newark Commission for Neighborhood Conservation & Rehabilitation; members of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and representatives of other city agencies.

This trip is of special interest to residents of the Clinton Hill area since they are involved in the proposed program of housing rehabilitation under Section 220 of the Federal Housing Act of 1954. A description of this 220 program, written by Mr. Hoover, was included in the January issue of this bulletin.

Commission To Review Central Ward Report

The complete deliberations and recommendations of the Central Ward Neighborhood Conference held in November, 1956 are now prepared. In its March meeting the Commission will review the material contained therein and release the findings to the press and the public.

The recommendations of the steering committee of the conference incorporate the major suggestions emanating from the round table discussions of 250 residents of the Central Ward. Copies of the report will be submitted to Mayor Carlin and the heads of all other public and private agencies involved in the recommendations made by the steering committee.

When the Commission has approved and adopted this report, copies will be made available to individuals and organizations dedicated to the improvement of inter-group relations in our community.

LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

Mr. Arthur Chapin, Human Relations Director, announced that the New Jersey State CIO, since its inception in 1947, has had as one of its cardinal principles the achievement of economic, social and political justice for all citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, nationality or sex.

Since 1948, the State CIO has maintained a full-time civil rights and human relations department. Its director has worked with other groups, with government officials, and within the organization to eliminate discrimination and assure equal rights for all.

Other activities of the New Jersey State CIO in support of full human rights for all include:

Sponsorship of conferences, meetings and discussions in which techniques for eliminating discrimination are explained.

Publication of press releases, newspapers, leaflets and mimeographed materials for wide distribution on the subject.

Maintenance of an integrated staff and encouragement of other unions and companies to do likewise.

Sponsorship and support of state and national legislation designed to promote, enhance and achieve equal rights for all in the use of all public facilities, including housing built with funds guaranteed or insured by the government.

Helping elect to public office candidates pledged to enact effective anti-discrimination legislation.

Mayor Leo P. Carlin Opens The New Newark Forum

On February 28th at the Broadway Adult School, Mayor Carlin opened the New Newark Forum, a series of six weekly meetings to discuss the various aspects of civic administration in Newark. The public is invited to participate in these meetings at which city officials and agency heads share information on the functions and responsibilities of their departments and the future of Newark. An open question and answer period follows the presentations of the guest consultant.

The Forum is being conducted at the Broadway Adult School, 663 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey; Monday evenings, 8:10 p.m. There is a registration fee of \$1.00 for the entire series.

The schedule for the remaining three sessions is as follows:

March 10 NEWARK'S BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH, Henry W. Connor, Director of Newark's Economic Development Committee; Paul Basse, Executive Secretary; Chairman; Mariano J. Rinaldi, Business Administrator.

March 25 NEWARK'S HOUSING & BUILDING CODE.

Restoring Old Neighborhoods—Miss Agnes Coleman, Chairman, Commission for Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation; Sam Clarence—Christopher Negro, Assistant Health Officer.

April 1 NEWARK'S SCHOOLS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES—Dr. Edward F. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools.

Carlin Honors David Litwin and Willard Heckel

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A Tribute to DAVID M. LITWIN whose life has exemplified the ideals of our founding fathers who proclaimed that all men are created equal. As a life long citizen of Newark, you have served your community with pride and dignity. As first Chairman of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, your diligence and dedication set the standard for any and all successors to emulate. We, the Citizens and present members of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations

thinks thank you and honor you for your devoted service.

In warmest gratitude we, the Citizens of Newark honor you, C. WILLARD HECKEL, for your integrity and sincerity in upholding the spirit and letter of the Bill of Rights. We commend you for giving greater meaning to our democratic credo through your community service as Chairman of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. We salute you for striving to make "The Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God" the faith by which all men shall live.

D. A. D. Host To Newark Commission

The Division Against Discrimination of the State Department of Education is the functional arm of the State's Civil Rights Commission consisting of seven lay-members appointed by the governor to administer the Anti-Discrimination Law of New Jersey.

This Civil Rights Commission meets monthly to transact its business and to give direction to Dr. John P. Milligan, director and Dr. Harold Lett, who head-up the major departments.

The Mayor's Commission of Newark was invited to sit in on the March meeting of the Division. The purpose of the invitation was to give the Newark group an opportunity to learn more about the actual functioning of the Civil Rights Commission and to give local commission members an opportunity to express their interest and feeling concerning the work of the state agency. This pattern is applied monthly in the invitations which the division issues to Mayor's Commissioners throughout the State of New Jersey.

Our visiting representatives from Newark were greatly impressed with the conduct of this meeting and with the wealth of present activities and future plans of the state agency. We felt that greater circulation should be given to the deliberations of this important body.

N. J. State CIO Calls for Housing Legislation

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to achieve a decent home at reasonable cost or rent for every family without regard for the race or color of the family."

The State of New Jersey has been one of the forerunners in the enactment of anti-discrimination laws which now cover nine areas of public life. Several revisions and amendments have been added over the years to guarantee each citizen his civil rights under our State and Federal constitutions. While great progress has been made in other areas, there is still much to be done in the field of housing, particularly private and publicly-assisted housing. A group of New Jersey State Assemblymen recognized this need for added legislation and sponsored the necessary bill to cover this area.

ASSEMBLY BILL A-8

During the current session of the New Jersey State legislature, a bill which would virtually eliminate discrimination in private housing was introduced and passed in the House of Representatives. It is now in the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. The bill known as A-8 is sponsored by Reverend James Vance Melver, Essex County; Donald Fitz Maurice, Essex County and Benjamin Franklin, III, Morris County. A similar bill, S-88, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Denal C. Fox of Essex County.

It is the intent of Assembly Bill A-8 to bar discrimination because of race, color, nationality or ancestry in housing financed to whole or part by mortgages guaranteed or insured by the federal government or any other public agency. This bill would also amend the Anti-Discrimination Law to give the Division Against Discrimination jurisdiction to administer this statute as it now does in the areas of employment, public accommodations, public housing, schools and libraries, etc.

The importance of such legislation in insuring equal opportunity for any person to purchase the home of his choice is mandatory if we are to meet this major problem. Citizens and organizations are requested to support Assembly Bill A-8 through the Senate Judiciary Committee and their local representatives, urging that this Bill be brought to the floor for Senate adoption.

Arthur Chapin, further suggests that all letters, telegrams and petitions in support of the Melver-Fitz Maurice-Franklin Bill be sent to the following named legislators: Senators Richard R. Stout, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee; Wayne Dumont, President of the Senate; Frank Farley, President pro tem of the Senate and a member of the Judiciary Committee; Majority Leader Albert McCay of Burlington County and Minority leader Robert C. Crane of Union County. Address: State House, Trenton, New Jersey.

Summer Workshops in Human Relations at Rutgers University

Applications for the Seventh Annual Workshop, Community Leadership in Inter-group Relations, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, New Jersey Region and the Division Against Discrimination of the New Jersey State Department of Education are now being accepted. This summer's workshop is conducted at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey during the week of July 14th - 20th.

Membership is limited to 50 persons from community organizations, social work, law enforcement, and govern-

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Representatives of the private and public agencies and organizations which were invited for their consistent cooperation with the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations at its Brotherhood North Meeting.

Issues and Principles

THE CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT ON RACE RELATIONS by John LaFarge, S. J. Hanover House, New York 22, N. Y. 190 pages. \$2.95.

Like any other person, a Catholic may be on either side of many controversial issues. Catholic principles, however, remain constant. Therefore certain problems of necessity must require a particular attitude from Catholics. This is the underlying idea of "Catholic Viewpoint" books, of which this is the first.

"The Catholic Viewpoint on Race Relations" is a must for all Catholic actionists. As the author points out, before one can act, he must know what the situation is, why it is that way, then what he can do about it. No one is better qualified to give us these facts and the moral attitude towards them than the eminent Jesuit, Father LaFarge, with his long history of work in race relations.

Gives Background, Tells Progress

In outline order Father LaFarge traces the background on the problem up to such recent events as the Emmett Till murder in Mississippi in 1955. Foreigners ask how Americans justify their treatment of the Negro, the Oriental and the American Indian. Southerners ask why the reproach from the North with its own prejudices. The Negro asks how he can cooperate with the white man while being taught to stay in his place. Groups ask whether it isn't better to let time take care of the problems.

Notes Catholic Contributions

These are but facets of the vicious circle involving racial problems. The author points them out and goes on to describe progress that has been made in the basic areas of education, employment, political rights, and housing. He highlights the historic Supreme Court decision of 1954—which hit the deathblow to (school) segregation and its heretofore accepted basis of "separate but equal" . . . the proficiency Negroes and their leaders have, therefore, developed in use of court tests and the ballot . . . analysis of friction in housing as being often due to social and cultural differences, rather than racial.

When we take a look with the author at the Catholic record in our schools, hospitals and other charitable institutions, we find heartening accomplishments. While the Church, Father LaFarge asserts, has a very good record in the past of working with minority groups, it is not content today to work on various phases of the man, but must minister to the total man and his inter-relationships with others. The Federated Colored Catholics—like other national groups organized in the past to obtain full and equal status in the Church for its members—was not the answer. However, good came from this effort; of these the Manhattan Resolutions were adopted and gave way to many fine Catholic actions and groups.

You will want to have a copy of this factual document in your library, Catholic or not. With factual understanding, the solution of any problem will often become apparent and more easily reached.

(Reprint from *Community*, March 1957)

Guidance of Minority Group Youth

The Division Against Discrimination of the State Department of Education, together with the Curriculum Division and the Vocational Division, has been successful in working with the officers and executive committee of the Guidance and Personnel Association to create a guiding statement concerning the guidance of minority group youth. Assistant Commissioner John P. Milligan has discussed this statement with the county superintendents and with the executive committee of the New Jersey Department of Superintendence. He will confer with the executive committee of the New Jersey Federated Boards of Education with the high school principals group. In these conferences he has had the assistance and support of Assistant Commissioners Flury and Jochen.

It is hoped that the statement will be drafted by July, at which time, it will have had the thorough consideration of all school parties responsible for the guidance program. Procedure then will be to implement it at the local level, to the end that minority group youth will be referred for employment and college admission on the same basis as all other youth.

SELECTED READING

Gittler, Joseph B., ed. *Understanding Minority Groups*. 1956. John Wiley & Sons, 440 Fourth Ave. New York 16, N. Y. 139 p. \$3.25.

Six essays by noted authors—on the backgrounds and current aspects of special problems faced by Catholics, American Indians, Jews, Negroes, Japanese-Americans and Puerto Ricans in the United States—together with a side essay by the editor and an introductory essay on "Ethical and Philosophical Aspects of Group Relations."

Hirsh, Selma. *Fear and Prejudice*. 1937. Public Affairs Pamphlet, 22 E. 28th Street, New York 16, New York, 32 p. 25c (less in quantity).

A pamphlet excerpted from the book, *The Four Men Live By*, which was based upon the research project, *Studies in Prejudice*. This pamphlet expands the research of psychologists, sociologists, social and political scientists on the origins and the nature of the prejudiced personality.

Ieth, David and Fleming, Harold. *Integration, North and South*. 1956. Fund for the Republic, Inc. Sold through American Books, 170 Union Square West, New York 2, New York. 120 p. 45c (less in quantity).

A "honestly one-sided report" of "specific instances of desegregation" in 31 states outside the "solid" South and border states. An inventory, without evaluation, submitted to "Progressive Humanism."

Summer Workshops

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most. These are persons who will wish to improve their understanding of the problems confronting them in the area of Intergroup Relations and to learn up-to-date techniques useful to their solution.

Participants are selected to create a heterogeneous workshop population with respect to race, religion, occupation, ethnic and geographic background.

An Advanced Workshop, *Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations*, is also being offered for the second consecutive year. Participation in this workshop is limited to persons with previous workshop experience and to professionals in the field of human relations. This session will be conducted July 23 to July 27, immediately following the Community Leadership Workshop.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations provides scholarship aid for qualified city employees and those citizens interested in the improvement of intergroup relations in the City of Newark. For further information about these workshops and scholarship aid, contact the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Room 215, City Hall, Newark 2, New Jersey, MA 3-1232.